

On *Dichelaspis pellucida*, Darwin, from the scales of an Hydrophid obtained at Mergui. By DR. P. P. C. HOEK, Member Royal Academy of Science of the Netherlands, Leiden. (Communicated by Dr. J. ANDERSON, F.R.S., F.L.S.)

[Read 17th February, 1887.]

(PLATE XIII.)

DR. ANDERSON collected many specimens of this species from an Hydrophid obtained among the fishing-stakes at Mergui. They were attached to the scales of the snake, and were so numerous as to give a rough appearance to the entire body. On an average the Cirriped measured about 9 millim. in length.

So far as my knowledge goes, this species has not been observed since Darwin published his description* from specimens obtained in the Indian Ocean, which were also attached to a sea-snake, and for which he was indebted to the kindness of Mr. Busk.

Although I believe there can be no question as to the identity of Darwin's *D. pellucida* and the specimens from the Mergui Archipelago, I may be permitted to point out such small differences as I have been able to observe.

The shape of the valves closely resembles Darwin's description and figures. The basal segment of the scutum is much narrower than the occludent segment, and about half as long. The tergum (fig. 2) has the form of a battle-axe; its handle, however, is not narrower than the occludent segment of the scuta (as Darwin says it is), but considerably thicker, or about as thick. The occludent segment of the scutum forms with the handle of the battle-axe an angle (fig. 2, *a, b, c*) of more than 45°. The carina agrees perfectly with Darwin's description, and so does the peduncle, of which Darwin says, "its narrowness and transparency are its only remarkable characters."

The size of the specimens from Mergui considerably exceeds the dimensions given by Darwin. In the specimens he studied the capitulum measured 0.15 of an inch in length, which is about 3.8 millim. The Mergui specimen figured (fig. 1) has a capitulum 5.3 millim. long, while another measures even 6.2 millim. On the contrary, the peduncle is only about once and a half as long as the capitulum. Most probably these differences in size, as well as those very inconsiderable ones in the valves which I have

* Monograph of the Cirripedia, vol. i. p. 125, pl. ii. fig. 7.

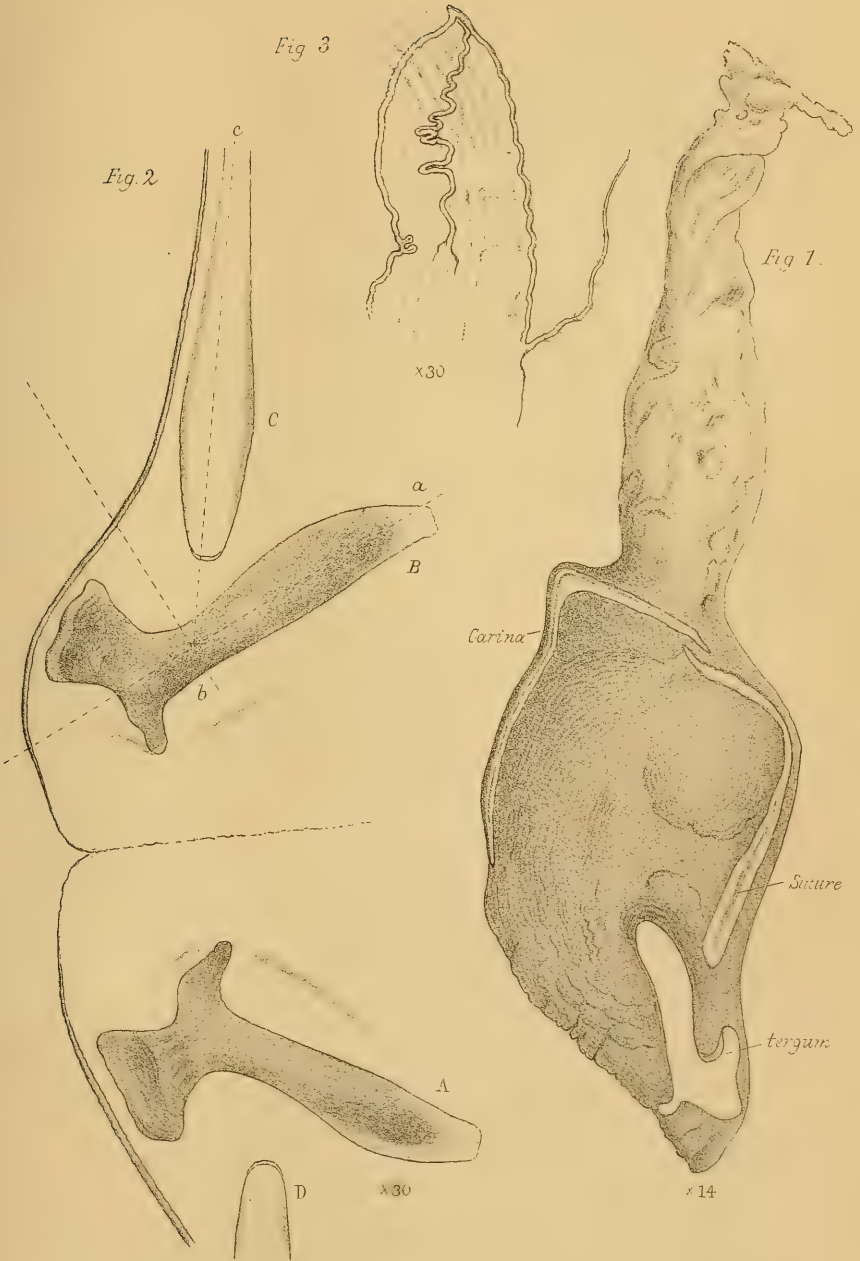
pointed out as existing between Darwin's specimens and those from Mergui, are due to difference in age. A specimen I dissected was furnished with ovigerous lamellæ.

In figure 3 I have given a representation of the penis of this species. Whereas the probosciformed organ, except in certain species of *Scalpellum*, is very long, the present species has a very thick and short penis, its tip being pointed and somewhat hooked. Darwin does not describe the penis of this nor of any other species of the genus.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XIII.

Fig. 1. *Dichelaspis pellucida*, Darwin, side view: $\times 14$ diam.

2. View of a part of the capitulum, to show A & B, the terga, C & D, the occludent segments of the scuta, and *a, b, c*, the angle the occludent segment of the scutum forms with the handle of the battle-axe-shaped tergum: $\times 30$ diam.
 3. Representation of the penis: $\times 30$ diam.
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Hammond lith.

D^r Hoek del.

nat. harr. m.

DICHELASPIS PELLUCIDA, Darwin